



TERRITORIAL RESILIENCE: TOOL FOR CONTEMPORARY VULNERABILITY OF POST-INDUSTRIAL FABRIC INMUTATION?

Jeremy Cenci

Isabelle De Smet

Abstract:

Post-industrial territorial vulnerability involves strategic choices rehabilitation, retraining and/or destruction of an existing property, whether at the scale of the building, neighborhood, or even an entire territory. This research targets the problem of brownfield redevelopment of "Val de Sambre" (Charleroi to Maubeuge) of the industrial period (1850-1950) until today. Sambre, one of the mysteries of industrial development of the entire basin at the Franco-Belgian border, and following its sewer pipes, is a communication river whose role intensified in the nineteenth century. The river is equipped with a multitude of industries around its meandering urban development. Railroads, straight roads, urban sprawl and landscape industries are grafted in previously ordinary landscapes.

Industrial decline blocks the evolution of the industrial landscape and leaves behind scars of past economic glory. Landscapes sequenced and constrained industrial sites abandoned as well as dying economy and increased impoverishment, the first traces of territorial vulnerability are exposed.

For several decades, the image of the territory and the emblem of two urban centers (Charleroi and Maubeuge) are devalued and symptomatically synonymous with "disaster areas." Green areas in urban peripheries are transformed into industrial zoning relevant to multifunctional revitalization while wastelands of the industrial era are abandoned and polluted. Can the cost of the remediation of wasteland alone be the master of territorial planning and development? Given the devastation of these farms, it seems pertinent to ask how this area can, or will, adapt to future needs by integrating historical, industrial and patrimonial concepts. If the conversion of former industrial sites is favored, what type of programming will allow regeneration and balanced revitalization of a territory in the center of Europe? These questions cover specific notions of territorial resilience, such as, how can a territory recover from a major shock by repeating these past mistakes? The research proposes a proactive vision of the future through territorial resilience. It evaluates the major strengths (and therefore its vulnerabilities) and highlights the potential sites where rehabilitation (with selected programming) is pertinent.

Do consolidated projects and global catalysts, such as *Couleur Carolo*, *Charleroi 2020*, *Phénix*, *Politique des Grandes Villes*, *Plan Urbain pour le Développement Durable*, *Parcs d'activités économique*, *l'aéroport de Brussel-Sud (Charleroi)*, etc. encourage a favorable socio-economic and resilient return or do multiple projects continue to be inadequate and make this territory vulnerable? Is resilience a paradigm for the future of regions of traditional industry in Europe?

Keywords: Resilience, vulnerability, brownfield, redevelopment, programming

